

KEYTESVILLE, - MISSOURI

The Tobacco Industry in the State of Missouri.

Our Missouri farmers no longer stand in very much the same predicament of the man who was placed between the devil and the deep sea. They have been ruinously raising only two or three of the staple grain crops to the exclusion of all others, until it appears to them that only one of two alternatives is left, either to jump into the deep sea of bankruptcy by continuing the system, or to rush upon the devil of starvation by heeding the magic cry of over-production, and raising less.

It is not necessary here to combat the silly proposition that there ever has been or is likely to be in the near future any over-production of the great agricultural products. If any argument was needed to disprove the proposition the starving millions of the world and the low prices of farm products would furnish the refutation.

As we said at the beginning, agriculture is in a distressed condition. But it is not yet so bad in this beautiful virgin land of ours, upon which a kind providence has lavished his smiles of fertile soils, equable climate and fruitful seasons, that our present distress may not be changed to former years of prosperity by wise forethought and diligent action.

What then is the remedy? We answer, in a diversity of crops. Let our farmers cease to rely solely upon corn and wheat as wealth producers, but add to these other crops to which our soil and climate is equally suited. And as a valuable assistant we believe that tobacco, when intelligent care is used in raising, curing, grading and marketing, cannot be excelled by any other product of agriculture.

The prosperity that has come to the South since the civil war is a forcible object lesson in diversified farming. Prior to that period her principal agricultural product was cotton, with here and there a little rice or sugar. Conditions then were peculiarly favorable to such a system, for the United States produced almost the world's entire supply of cotton. But in the civil war she lost that advantage. When her planters emerged from the noise, smoke and conflict of the great struggle and commenced the task of rebuilding their ruined fortunes they found competitors occupying markets that formerly had been exclusively their own. The blockade shut off from manufacturers the small supply of cotton that continued to be produced during the war, thus compelling foreign governments to encourage its production in other parts of the world. Southern planters soon became aware that they could not prosper with their former staple alone. They thereupon began to diversify their planting by raising crops they had formerly bought almost exclusively at the North. Their success encouraged other industries, and very soon manufactures of all kinds began to flourish in their midst. Thus it ever has been. One success encourages some one else to effort, and this is how it comes to pass that to him that hath shall be added more abundantly. And, today, the South, after losing everything except the bare land in a terrible civil conflict, instead of being poorer is four-fold richer than prior to her disasters. But best result of all wealth is now more evenly distributed at the South than formerly, and like Job's experiences with Satan, her latter end shall be more blessed than her beginning. We should take lesson from this example to improve our own condition.

Tobacco is today one of the staples of commerce, and has come to be thousands an article of actual necessity. The decreased production of last few years has again raised the price of first-class tobacco to a figure that pays a handsome profit to the producer. And that price is bound to steadily appreciate for some time to come, for production has been falling in a more rapid ratio than the increased demand has risen.

We already know that Missouri soil and climate is adapted to tobacco culture, because experience has proven it. That experience taught our farmers another fact, and that was that their tobacco raising days were their most

prosperous. Then why not now when wheat and corn hardly pay the cost of raising, except in years of general failure elsewhere, return to the cultivation of tobacco? The fact that manufacturers are now sending out agents to interest farmers once more in tobacco raising should convince them that prices are bound to go higher. The wise farmer who takes advantage of the present opportunity will receive his reward in greater prosperity.

The causes of the unprofitableness of tobacco raising in recent years are not hard to discover.

1st. Too many farmers raised it as a side venture, without possessing sufficient knowledge of the best methods of handling or being able to properly grade it for marketing. To achieve success the producer must first learn his business in all its details.

2nd. The producer has in the past shipped his tobacco to the commission merchant in the large centers for sale or been content with the price offered by the local buyer. This one-sided policy should be discontinued, and in its place each community should have ware-houses where the leaf tobacco should be offered for sale at stated periods to the general public. By this arrangement the seller will no longer be at the mercy of the buyer, as formerly. For when manufacturers and dealers learn that we are raising a superior article of tobacco, in large quantities, they will come long distances to such sales. The recuperation of tobacco raising would encourage local manufacture, and by adding to our consuming population afford a larger market for other farm products.

This matter is worthy serious consideration. All our lands are not adapted to tobacco culture, nor would all our farmers succeed at the business. But many would and their success would benefit all. For mankind is so mutually dependent that one man cannot prosper legitimately without adding to the prosperity of his neighbor.

It appeared decidedly doggish to fair-minded people for the Chariton County Republican to accept the announcement of both Profs. J. F. Pratt and J. T. Colley for county school commissioner, and then coming out in its last issue before the election and supporting Prof. Pratt in its columns. The election returns for school commissioner, however, indicate that the Republican made votes for Prof. Colley by giving Prof. Pratt its support. There are a good many kinds of dogs, but there is no room to doubt but what the editor of the Republican represents the worst breed on record. He is the kind of a dog whose wag of approval is worse than his bite. Prof. Pratt's political prayer hereafter should be: "Lord, save me from such fool friends as N. Fenstermaker."

THE *Marceline Journal* makes the startling announcement that a candidate was successful at the recent township election without making a canvass of personal solicitation. Is it possible that the millennium is about to inaugurate its reign in Marceline?

ADDITIONAL LOCAL.

Sickeningly Silly.

If giddy, giggling girls and love-sick swains who go to church and scatter their brains about promiscuously by writing on the margins of hymn books could only see themselves as others see them we believe they would desist from the silly, disgusting twaddle. Not only is such conduct extremely silly and intolerably disgusting, but those who are guilty of such a breach of good breeding are liable to arrest and prosecution for mutilating and defacing church property.

We found the following in a hymn book which we picked up while at church last Sunday morning:

"Don't put me in your pocket."

"What is the matter with you and Berry tonight?"

"Where is Guy and his new coat?"

"No; keep on guessing, you will guess it directly."

"Oh, no little lady, don't think I am sorry that we did 'are not.'"

"I heard that you and Jim H. were getting up a case. How about it?"

"His little brother, Joe, wants to beat his time, don't he?"

"I 'recern' as his girl had other engagements he staid at home."

"How about you and Cohn P?"

Frost last night.

Our Musselfork and Hamden correspondence are unavoidably crowded out this week.

The Triumph riding plow is so perfect that a 6-year-old child can manage it with ease. Its draft is perfection of lightness. Examine it at Geo. Herman's, Salisbury, Mo.

The Matinee Musicale club celebrated their first anniversary on Tuesday evening, April 6th, at the home of Miss Zettie Martin. Music and musical games were the chief way of entertaining the first part of the evening, and later delicious ice-cream and cake were served as refreshments.

L. O. White, an old Keytesville boy, who embarked in the grocery business at Hale, Carroll county, a year or more ago, has sold out to A. J. Herring and returned to his old home last Saturday. Louis' many friends here gave him a cordial welcome. The *Courier* hopes she will conclude to cast his lot in our midst again.

The School Election.

The annual school election for Keytesville village school last Tuesday resulted as follows:

TWO DIRECTORS FOR THREE YEARS.

Geo. N. Elliott..... 218

W. W. Hancock..... 204

W. W. Rucker..... 85

O. B. Anderson..... 80

ONE DIRECTOR FOR TWO YEARS.

O. F. Smith..... 198

J. C. Wallace..... 81

SCHOOL LEVY.

For Increase of Levy—Yes..... 139

For Increase of Levy—No..... 150

SCHOOL COMMISSIONER.

J. T. Colley..... 260

J. F. Pratt..... 109

The large vote for school commissioner at Keytesville is accounted for by the fact that quite a number of persons who were here attending circuit court were permitted to vote for the man of their choice for that office.

The entire county's vote for school commissioner is slow coming in. Up to the time of going to press only 42 out of a total of 129 districts have properly certified their votes. These give Pratt 783 votes and Colley 533—a majority in favor of Pratt. In Salisbury, Pratt had 110 majority, and in Keytesville, Colley got 151 majority, which leaves Pratt 207 votes in the lead as far as heard from. But neither Keytesville nor Salisbury has yet certified the vote.

Midnight Marauders.

Several of our citizens last Monday night had experience with the human night owl, who chooses the cover of darkness in which to do his misdeeds. About 11 o'clock Frank Jones, colored; who works for W. C. Gaston and sleeps in the kitchen, was awakened by someone trying to get in at the window. Frank leveled his revolver at the intruder and pulled the trigger three times before the old thing would go off. When it did Mr. Burglar rapidly carried his carcass out of the range of danger, tearing down several feet of wire screen in his haste to depart for cooler quarters. The same night Dr. Egan found a negro in his kitchen fast asleep behind the stove and really or pretended to be very drunk. The doctor's kindness of heart permitted him to let his unwelcome guest to depart in peace. Deputy Recorder John M. Mason, also, received a visit on the same date either on an ante-election drunk or burglary bent. None of the parties lost any property.

May Heaven Bless 'Em.

The following friends have placed us under obligations since the last issue of the *Courier* by either renewing their subscription or becoming new subscribers to the Great Favorite Weekly:

RENEWALS.

W. H. Parks, G. K. Laughlin, J. W. Clavin, Elbert DeWeese, G. C. Briggs, Eli Shire, C. H. Woodson, L. C. Cloyd, D. E. Johnson, David T. Porter, Mrs. E. Smith, Thos. Trow, John Brooks, Thos. Harned, J. J. McFarland, H. B. Richardson, J. W. Richardson, B. H. Smith, H. A. Wheeler, W. E. Williams, A. Cox, J. M. Farris, W. C. Adams, James McKee.

NEW SUBSCRIBERS.

Davis & Sims, Parks & Cox, T. J. Billups, Miss Lena Hyde, Andrew Lobbin, J. T. Swain, Jr., J. W. Stevenson, M. C. Stanley, W. R. McGrew, W. J. Bogard, S. Brewer, T. J. Benney.

The Ladies' Embroidery club meets at Mrs. W. D. Vaughan's next Thursday afternoon.

The Dodger Disc cultivator is the best in the market. Sold by Geo. Herman, Salisbury, Mo.

For listing corn the Juno Riding lister is the very best. For sale by Geo. Herman, Salisbury, Mo.

The Racine sub-soil plow does the best work of any on the market. Sold by Geo. Herman, Salisbury, Mo.

The Triumph is the only perfect riding braking plow in the market. For sale by Geo. Herman, Salisbury, Mo.

The Old Reliable riding cultivator has foot lift, easy adjustment and light draft. For sale by Geo. Herman, Salisbury, Mo.

Mrs. George Herman of Salisbury keeps repairs and needles, and also does repairing on all kinds of sewing machines. Satisfaction guaranteed.

Mrs. Elizabeth Adams of Pee Dee left Wednesday for El Reno, Oklahoma territory, where she will visit her daughter, Mrs. Terry, during the coming spring and summer.

Courtney & Co. shipped two loads of cattle from Keytesville to St. Louis, where they were sold at fairly remunerative prices. One load was the Dr. Drace cattle, the other was butcher stuff. Mr. Taylor accompanied the shipment.

Bob Fitzsimmons passed down the Wabash Monday on the 12:47 passenger going to St. Louis. Several of our citizens got awed glimpses of the "fistic hero," but did not present him with any challenges.

Mrs. E. J. Gibson and her 4-year old daughter, Helen, arrived here the latter part of last week for a visit to Keytesville relatives. The next day after their arrival here little Helen was taken quite sick with pneumonia, but is now, we are glad to learn, convalescent.

The county board of equalization, composed of County Judge's Herring, Allen and Hayes, Sheriff Dempsey and County Surveyor Arrington, was in from Monday to Thursday, inclusive, of this week with County Clerk Edwards and Deputy County Clerk Miler, wielding the pen as clerks. Quite a number of assessments were raised, and the unfortunates will now properly proceed to raise something that would not look well in print, but it begins with "h" and ends with "l."

Miss Nealie Rice, the 16-year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. G. C. Rice, living one mile east of Keytesville, died last Wednesday night at 8:30 o'clock after an illness of less than two weeks of typhoid pneumonia. The young lady was born and reared in this community, and her untimely death is deeply mourned, not only by her parents and brothers and sisters but also by a large circle of admiring friends. Interment will take place in the City cemetery this afternoon.

The Salisbury *Democrat* says: Thos Stanton, who caught for the famous Salisbury base ball team of 1895, has signed with the St. Louis Browns and will be given a trial in fast company. He played in a practice game Sunday and demonstrated to the satisfaction of the St. Louis fans that he knows his business. His only failing was a weakness at the bat. Tom has many friends in Salisbury and all of them are hoping that he will be able to secure a berth in professional ranks. He is a clean, gentlemanly player, has a cool head and splendid judgment.

Jas. F. Taylor of 2 1-2 miles south-west of Keytesville had three head of horses killed by the east-bound passenger train Monday night. The horses got on the track by a mule pawing open the gate and then passing onto the railroad right-of-way over a filled cattle guard on Eph. Moore's farm. Eph. had two head of horses killed a short time ago in the same way. Mr. Taylor's horses were valuable animals, aged four, six and eight years, the eight-year-old being Mr. Taylor's driving gelding for which he paid J. J. McFarland \$100 not long since. Mr. T. has filed a claim with the company for \$200 for the loss.

The Chillicothe district conference of the M. E. church, South convens at Triplett on Wednesday, April 14th.

Brother J. E. Dismukes of the Salisbury *Democrat* and C. B. Oldham, "ye local" on the Salisbury *Press-Spectator*, were over Wednesday to get the facts of Tuesday's shooting affair.

"Uncle Milt" Hurt of Salisbury died last Tuesday afternoon after a protracted illness. As his obituary appeared in the *Courier* three weeks ago, we do not now deem it necessary to give another biographical sketch of his useful life.

J. S. Rucker's residence, which was destroyed by fire in the northeast part of town three or four weeks ago, is soon to be replaced by a five-room domicile with a hall and three porches, Mr. Rucker having let the contract to John E. Fuqua.

The probate court settlement docket for the May term will be found on our second page. The *Courier*, by the way, has added the second page to its county news department, and will hereafter devote four of its pages exclusively to local happenings.

While in Salisbury last Saturday we were shown through the large, well-arranged and splendidly equipped agricultural implement establishment of George Herman, and candor forces us to admit that a city many times the size of Salisbury would have just cause to feel a great deal of pride over such a large assortment of farming implements, wagons, buggies, carriages, etc. In addition to the varied stock of implements, etc., that are carried by Mr. Herman, Mrs. Herman handles a full line of pianos, organs and sewing machines on which she is making very close figures, especially to cash customers.

The restaurant building and its contents belonging to John Ewing, col., at Dalton was destroyed by fire between 12 and 1 o'clock last Monday night. At the time the fire occurred the proprietor of the restaurant was in Huntsville, and it is a mystery as to the blaze originated. The contents of the building did not amount to much, and was not insured, but the house was insured for \$300 in the Old Dominion Insurance company of Alexandria, Va., which will fully cover the loss. The west wall of Rudolph Wessner's brick store-room was slightly damaged by the heat, caused from the Ewing fire.

Wood Work Shop.

Charlie Schell has bought out the wood work department at the Jno. P. Tippet shops, and he is now soliciting the patronage of the general public and prepared promptly and in the best manner to turn out any kind of work in that line. Mr. Schell has been too long and favorably known by our people to need any formal introduction. He is a skilled workman in his line, universally liked by all who know him and will command a liberal share of patronage. We wish him success in his undertaking and bespeak for him from the friends of the *Courier* a liberal share of their work.

Moore's Furniture Store.

If you want the very latest designs in all kinds of carpets, matings, window shades and picture moldings, call on J. P. Moore, the one-price furniture house, north of the Bank of Keytesville. New goods now coming in. Everything in the furniture and undertakers' line at prices that defy competition. All kinds of repair work done on short notice. Don't fail to call and examine my goods whether you want to buy or not. Probably there is something you will need in my line later on. Be sure to see my assortment of carpets and window shades. They are strictly up to date.

J. P. MOORE, Keytesville, Mo.

Fine Tailoring.

When you want a nice suit, something that will fit you and will not fade, call on Harms, the tailor, who has just received a superb line of spring and summer samples. Satisfaction guaranteed.

A. HARMS.

FINAL SETTLEMENT NOTICE.

Creditors and all others interested in the estate of Thos. E. Johnson, deceased, are hereby notified that at the next regular term of the Chariton County Probate Court, to be begun and held on the second Monday in May, 1902, at the Court-house in Keytesville, in said County, I shall make final settlement of said estate.

J. J. Moore, Administrator.

A Talk

About Stoves.

Yes, there are a great many kinds of stoves. Heating stoves, cooking stoves, wood stoves, coal and gasoline stoves. But as the heating stove season is about over, I want to talk with you about cooking stoves. The best, the very best, cooking stove, is the "Superior." It is not only "Superior" in name, but superior in reality. It requires less fuel, cooks more evenly and keeps the cook in a better humor than any other cooking stove in the market. It has a fire-back that is warranted for 15 years, and the most desirable modern improvements known to the manufacturers of cooking stoves. It will actually cook with both oven doors wide open, as many who have tried it will testify.

While I could tell you a great deal more about the merits of the "Superior," I want to say that I also carry seven or eight other brands of cooking stoves and two makes of steel ranges.

Queensware.

I have just received an elegant line English, Decorated Semi-Porcelain Queensware, of 1897 patterns, which can not fail to please you. Will take pleasure in showing this superb line to newly married couples and others who contemplate getting married.

Hardware.

My stock of Hardware, Tinware, Cutlery and Garden Tools, was never more complete. Come and see me.

Yours truly,

W. D. VAUGHAN,
Keytesville, Mo.

Wedding Bells.

DOKE-FRANKLIN:—Mr. R. E. Doke and Miss Mollie Franklin were married, near Eccles, by Rev. P. M. Stars on Sunday, April 4th.

COPPIN-CUNNINGHAM:—Mr. G. H. Coppin and Miss Jeane Cunningham, both of Brunswick, were married in that city on Monday, April 5th, Rev. J. O. Edmonston officiating.

HEDRICK-MAUPIN:—Mr. C. W. Hedrick and Miss Mary L. Maupin were married at the residence of the officiating justice of the peace, S. H. Jowell, near Mike, on Monday, March 29th.

A Friend in Adversity.

A few weeks ago some thief instigated by the devil or an empty stomach, we know not which, stole all our fresh pork. Our loss became known to Mr. Louis Grotjan of near Dalton, who, out of the abundance of his large and generous heart conceived the idea of making a contribution to repair our loss. Accordingly before starting to town last Wednesday he went to his smoke-house and selecting one of the juiciest and largest (judging by its size) hams in his well-stocked larder, brought it and laid it on our desk as a tribute of his good will and friendship. "Ye editor" has many up and downs in this world and he is sometimes almost ready to give up in despair at the seeming non-appreciation of his work by the general public, but when he is just on the point of fainting by the wayside some act of encouragement like this inspires him with new courage for the struggle. The friend in adversity is the only kind of a friend worth having. We return our most cordial thanks for the valuable and toothsome present. May the angel, "Good-luck," always keep watchful guard over the things that belong to "Uncle Louis," that no thief may ever break in on his goods and steal.